



# Double Strand Break (DSB) Complexity and Proximity Effects Within the Repair-Misrepair Fixation (RMF) Model for Improved Predictions of Cell Survival From Heavy Ions



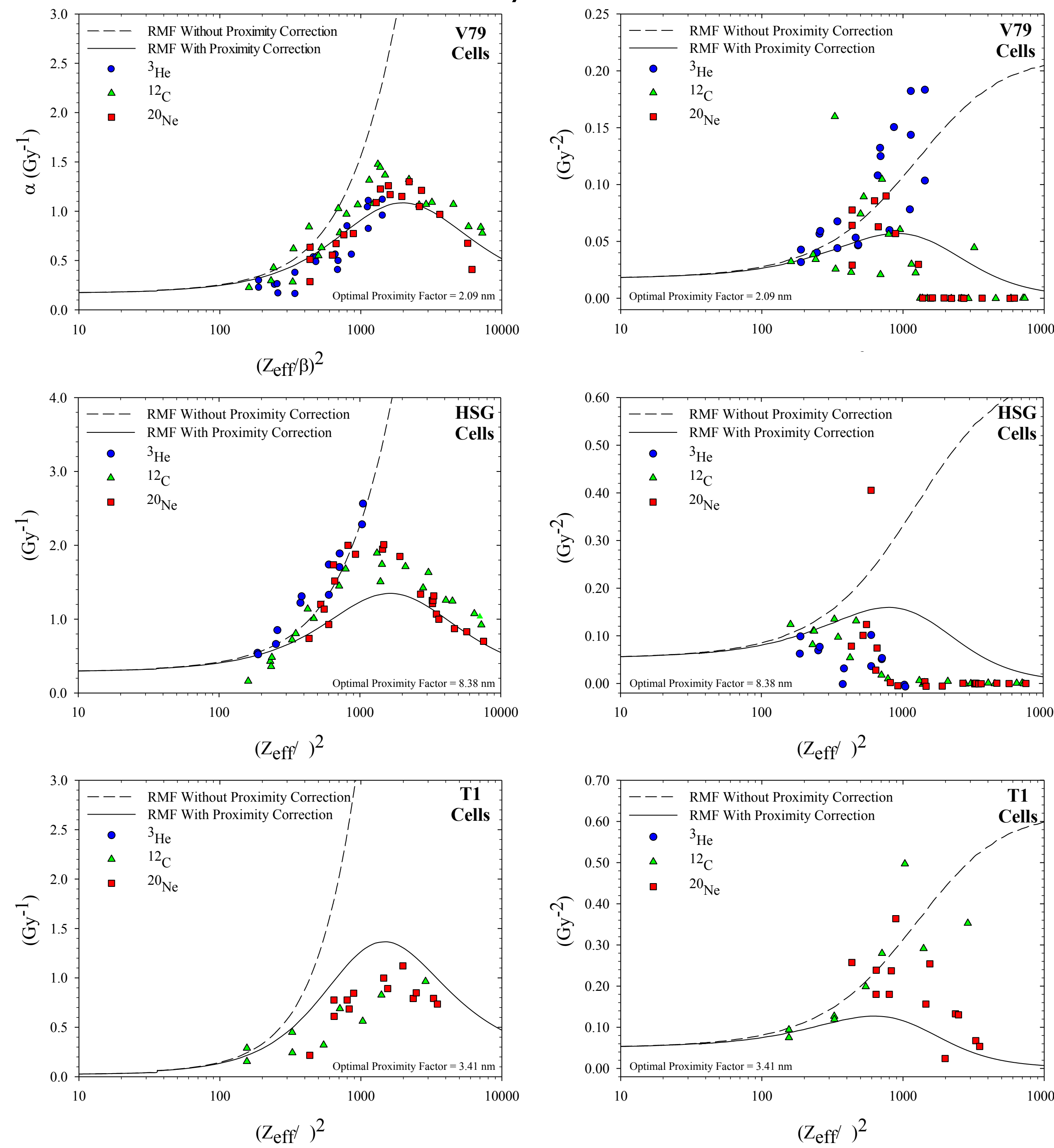
Michael P. Butkus<sup>1</sup>, Robert D. Stewart<sup>2</sup>, Zhe J. Chen<sup>1</sup>, David J. Carlson<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Therapeutic Radiology, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT    <sup>2</sup>Dept. of Radiation Oncology, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

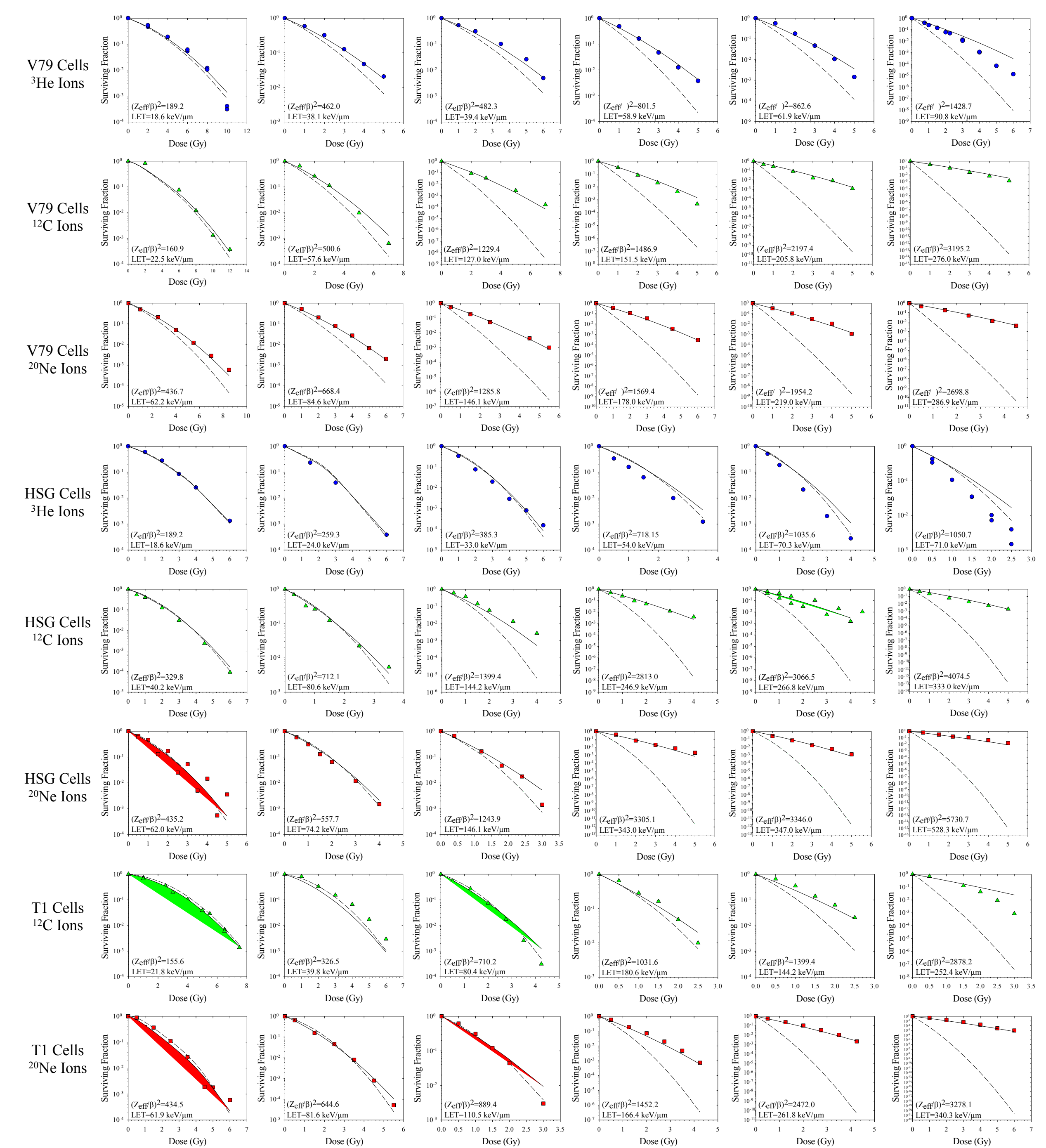
**Hypothesis:** Two or more DNA double strand breaks (DSB) formed within nanometer-sized regions of chromatin are effectively viewed by DSB repair mechanisms as a single (more complex) DSB. Such a proximity effect creates a trend in the RMF model towards a decrease in relative biological effectiveness (RBE) with increasing linear energy transfer (LET) beyond a particle-specific peak.

**Conclusions:** A refined version of the RMF model that accounts for proximity effects (clustering of two or more DSB) on a 2-8.5 nm scale improves the accuracy of RBE and cell survival estimates for normoxic (pO<sub>2</sub>=21%) HSG, T1, and V79 cells irradiated by high LET (Z ≥ 2) ions.

Comparison of measured and RMF model estimates of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  Values



Comparison of measured and RMF survival estimates under normoxic conditions



**Session: Radiobiology:  
Experiments and Modeling**  
July 31<sup>st</sup> · 1:45PM-3:45PM